

## Pueblo Colorado Serving the White Water Community with AHPS

Inquiries about the [Advanced Hydrologic Prediction Service \(AHPS\)](#) are being received by our local Weather Forecast Offices more and more like this email to the [Pueblo, Colorado National Weather Service Forecast Office](#) from a white water enthusiast:

*Hi, I am a daily visitor to <http://www.crh.noaa.gov/cgi-bin/ahps.cgi?pub&wsvc2>. Can I get something like the last 7 day or previous x day cfs information to track flows to the day I ran certain sections of the river? I would like to relate cfs to basic landmarks, and the difficulty and/or passable conditions. Thank you for the daily information.*

That email came from white water rafting enthusiast Tim Hanafée. Tim and his friends ride the water on the Arkansas River in Colorado.

Service Hydrologist Larry Walrod (Figure 1) responded quickly with a return email pointing him to the Colorado Department of Water Resources web page.

In an interview with Tim Hanafée, he stated he refers to the Pueblo AHPS web page at least once a day and sometimes several time each day. In fact, in determining vacation plans, Tim will make rafting plans a month a head of time based on the AHPS web page.



**Figure 1** Service Hydrologist Larry Walrod, WFO Pueblo, CO

*“This is a great example said Tim. This year we saw that it looked like the best flow was going to be between Memorial day and maybe the first two weeks [of June]. We thought we might take time off from Memorial Day on. As it turns out, in that period, we had some 3,000 cfs days, and on the Arkansas River, that is really quite high. It matched well with the prediction. We were very happy.”*

Tim indicated he also uses the AHPS information to look backwards. *“After we run a particular section we like to make notes on what kind of rocks, eddies, and hazards appear or disappear at certain water levels. This is based of course on measured flows. It is amazing to what a half a foot difference makes in the character of a rapid.”*

Tim is adamant about relying on the Pueblo AHPS web page.

*“If we are not near a place where we can get on the internet, we will call someone else at home and tell them to get on and tell us what the flow is.”*



**Figure 2** White water rafting with Tim Hanafée and friends

The Rocky Mountains are a hotbed for white water rafting. Colorado offers some of the best white rafting in the country with breath-taking trips on the Arkansas and the Rio Grande Rivers and it's tributaries. Waldrod keeps a close eye on these rivers to give the best river forecast science can provide.

AHPS is the NWS frontline solution for improved river and flood forecasting and water information across America. AHPS provides new information and products provided through the infusion of new science and technology. This service improves flood warnings and water resource forecasts to meet diverse and changing customer needs. The Pueblo NWS Forecast Office is doing a great job showing folks in central and southeast Colorado the "stuff" AHPS is made of!